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FLO 779

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5X1A

COUNTRY: Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC: Military Information from Dessau-Rosslau

EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

REFERENCES

PAGES

REMARKS

25X1A

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25X1X

1. The following rail shipments, coming from Jueterbog, arrived at the Pioneer Kaserne, Rosslau-Weinsdorf (M 52/E 17), between 25 April and 17 May 1950: 44 boxcars on 25 April, 10 boxcars on 29 April, 12 boxcars on 2 May and 10 boxcars on 5 May. All of the boxcars were occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered, black epaulets. Those arriving 25 April wore tank insignia. An increase has been observed in the number of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets at the post. (1)

25X1C

2. [REDACTED]
3. A train carrying 13 to 19 T34 and JS tanks left Rosslau-Weinsdorf toward Weimar and Berlin every morning between 28 April and 9 May 1950. The trains heading toward Weimar were allegedly bound for Buchenwald (F-3) and those toward Berlin were allegedly rerouted in Seddin (F-2). Trains of flatcars with eight tanks and four to six sealed boxcars left Rosslau-Weinsdorf toward Weimar-Buchenwald between 10 and 12 May 1950 at a rate of one per day.

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4. The Pioneer Kaserne, Rosslau-Weinsdorf, was occupied by only a rear detail on 18 May 1950. Soldiers were seen wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets; red-bordered black epaulets, some with tank insignia; and black-bordered black epaulets, some with anchor insignia. According to a mechanic about 70 trucks were still in the barracks.

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5. An engineer unit with [REDACTED] 25X1C
[REDACTED] went into a bivouac area on the Elbe River
near Schlossgarten on 15 May 1950. It was engaged in daily
bridge construction and ferrying exercises. (4)

25X1X

6. A convoy of 28 motor vehicles, led by a lieutenant colonel riding in passenger car [REDACTED] moved from Rossau toward Zerbst 25X1C
at about 10:30 a.m. on 5 May 1950. The convoy consisted of trucks
towing six 37-mm AA guns, including trucks [REDACTED] 25X1C
eight trucks [REDACTED] and mounting
heavy machine guns, three personnel carriers, and several trucks
loaded with billeting equipment.

7. Ninety soldiers with full pack arrived aboard a passenger train
from Dessau on 6 May 1950 and marched to Camp Meinsdorf. Five small
groups of soldiers with full pack got off a train from Dessau and
marched to Camp Meinsdorf on 7 May 1950. (5)

8. Engineer troops with motor vehicles [REDACTED] prac- 25X1C
ticed in the improvised water training area between the Elbe and
Mulde Rivers on 11 May 1950.

9. The former hospital near the main railroad station in Dessau was
occupied by about two companies of Kommandatura troops wearing black-
bordered red epaulets. The units furnished sentries and patrols
for duty at the Dessau military post. (6) Soviet dependents vacated
most of the houses west of the hospital and the houses were returned
to the Germans.

10. Civilians occupied the Friedrich Kaserne in the northern sector of
Dessau, the Enke Kaserne, previously called Artillerie Kaserne, in
Ziebeck, a NW suburb of Dessau, and the Hindenburg Kaserne in the
western sector of Dessau. (7)

11. The MVD quarters in Georgengarten, about 500 meters NW of the main
railroad station, were occupied by a unit of about company strength.
25X1C [REDACTED]

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Comments.

(1) The arrival of about 2,000 troops in 79 boxcars is noteworthy and is
more than the average number of replacements reported to arrive at
other military posts in the spring of 1950. The report indicates
that the troops came from Jueterbog where possibly a replacement
distributing point for units of the Third Gds Mecz Army is located,
as was presumed in 1949.

(2)

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(3) Two reports on the departure of units of the 7th Gds Tank Div in Rossau
to the north are available. One stated that twelve trains carrying troops
and tanks left Rossau for Jaenickendorf, which is one of the detrain-
ing stations for the Werder-Markendorf troop training grounds, between
17 and 24 April 1950. [REDACTED] The other stated that a north-
bound train carrying tanks passed through Wittenberg. [REDACTED] A
This report is the first to state that units of the 7th Gds Tank Div
moved to an unidentified destination via Seddin and to Weimar-Euchenwald.

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It appears possible, however, that some of the units may have gone to Werder-Markendorf via Seddin. On the other hand, there are no indications that elements of the 7th Gds Tank Div, [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] went to the Weimar area. 25X1A

25X1C

- (4) The information confirms a previous report that the Rosslau Pionier Kaserne was only lightly occupied in the second half of April 1950. It was said that the troops were not to return to their quarters before early October 1950. [REDACTED] 25X1A
- (5) The information indicates that, in addition to the troops which arrived during the period from 25 April to 5 May 1950, other shipments of replacements arrived later.
- (6) The presence of these troops was not previously known.
- (7) The Friedrich Kaserne housed civilians in the summer of 1949. The Enke Kaserne was reported for the first time to be occupied by civilians. An operational group of the LGB has been assumed to be in the Hindenburg Kaserne.

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